



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

*Office of Community Programs
425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536*

December 14, 2001

Travel Outside the United States with a Student Visa

To respond to questions raised regarding travel on a student visa, this summary explains the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) inspections process.

The INS has not changed its procedures regarding the readmission of foreign students with valid visas who choose to travel outside the United States. However, INS is operating on a heightened threat alert level and is conducting more thorough inspections of *all* persons seeking admission to the United States through an air, land, or sea port.

Students may leave the United States and be readmitted after absences of five months or less. Upon your return to the United States, you should provide immigration inspectors with:

- A valid passport
- A valid student entry visa (F-1 for an academic student or M-1 for vocational students) stamped in the passport, if necessary.
- A current INS form I-20 ID. This form must be signed by your appropriate school official each time you wish to temporarily travel outside the United States. If there have been any substantive changes in your course of study or place of study, you must obtain a new INS Form I-20 A-B/ID (for academic students) or I-20 M-N/ID (for vocational students).
- Proof of your financial support

When making your travel plans, please remember that you must be a full-time student to keep your F-1 or M-1 student status.

For more information on the inspections process, please visit the INS website at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>.